

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **ENNISKERRY**
County : **WICKLOW**
Category : **C**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 01-07-97

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1997	Mark Awarded 1996
Overall Developmental Approach	50	36	35
The Built Environment	40	32	32
Landscaping	40	25	24
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	21	20
Litter Control	40	26	24
Tidiness	20	14	13
Residential Areas	30	22	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	27	25
General Impression	10	6	7
TOTAL MARK	300	209	201

Enniskerry, County Wicklow

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for your completed questionnaire, which was relatively detailed; the adjudicators have still not received your five-year plan and would ask that you forward it by next year. You have an excellent developmental approach and you should try to put this down in writing, setting out what can be achieved over the next few years. You have very good support from all the sectors, from residential and commercial, which is good to see. You have a very pretty village, with a very strong identity. Try to incorporate more Irish into your programme, for example, what is the significance of the name. It was very encouraging to see the use of the Irish on the new display on the approach road from Kiltarnan, and in particular, the use of old Irish type face. Enniskerry has the ability to do very well in this competition, so spend some time in the careful preparation of your plan, it could be an opportunity for you to achieve much greater success. Continued efforts are being made in the Bog Meadow; well done in this regard, and the adjudicators look forward to seeing additional improvements next year.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Enniskerry is blessed with a magnificent and rich architectural heritage and the effort of individual commercial premises in an innovative way is to be commended. These buildings are complemented by nice stone walls throughout the village, and planting in places. Many fine premises that deserve a mention again this year, including Buttercups; Fine Crafts; Poppies; Objects; Ramseys; The Enniskerry Trading Company; Stepping Stones and Ferndale B&B. The National School was also well maintained, as was the beautiful Church of Ireland and its grounds, and the Catholic Church. It was nice to see Violets Shop in Kilgarron Park freshly painted and litter free. One key area that needs to be tackled is the community centre.

LANDSCAPING

A very good presentation under this category. The much improved triangle on the Kiltarnan approach road was an excellent presentation, congratulations, as was the clock tower area with beautiful budding roses at time of adjudication. There was evidence of additional tree planting coming on well at the new entrance opposite the entrance to Bog Meadow. There are many private residences with mature gardens, which offer considerable additional wildlife habitats - these are very well maintained. Try to improve on the community centre, and the area around it for next year; this needs considerable landscaping. Excellent presentations were noted at the Clock tower area in the use of flowers and the village is blessed also with mature trees and shrubs throughout.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Enniskerry is blessed with having a very good base for resources in which to develop under this category. In particular, the development of the Bog Meadow, the Crookstown River and the presence of Knocksink Nature Reserve on your doorstep provide excellent and important habitats for the development of wildlife. In relation to verges, it is nice to see wildflowers growing, but you could keep better maintenance by having selective cutting, for example, on the Glenree road, which would allow for a tidy appearance yet at the same time supporting wildlife habitats. At Bog Meadow, there is still much work that needs to be done. Conserving nature is a new venture for many towns and can appear daunting at first. The adjudicators recognise that environmental programmes can take time to get up and running and even longer to assess their success. This section of the report requires an involvement of all groups, including schools in the village. The emphasis is on the conservation and enhancement of wildlife habitats and the environment. Woodlands, rivers, ponds, hedgerows, open spaces, graveyards and walls are important habitats. The committee needs to identify the habitats in their area and then determine the appropriate actions to conserve and enhance these habitats. Guidelines in the Tidy Towns book offers other suggestions as to the type of initiatives you might undertake. Is there a local wildlife expert, or a member of the community with experience in this area, that your committee can draw on? In preparing an environmental programme for the village, there should be a year-round participation in environmental protection and promotion involving all members of the community and providing access for all. The next step is to identify what habitats are in your area - are these woodlands, wetlands, grasslands, or other habitats such as cemeteries, walls etc. Prepare a survey and map, showing the areas of wildlife importance and areas of potential importance. Other steps involved in the preparation of the environmental programme for Enniskerry would include identification of species list of the flora and fauna in the area; preparation of a wildlife management plan as part of the area development plan; work to be carried out including conservation projects, wildlife gardens, areas of conservation, access, tree planting, information areas etc. This must be carried out in sympathy with the local landscape and must not be overwhelming visually, or environmentally. Knocksink Nature Reserve is an excellent amenity; the car park area, however, needs much greater attention, as does the road, which both needs resurfacing. It might be nice to have information displays in the car park and plenty of wildlife was in evidence at time of adjudication in this area, well done. The education centre is also a unique and important resource.

LITTER CONTROL

Generally, litter control is quite good but there is still room for improvement. While the main centre of the village was neat and tidy, as was the road going up to Glenree, litter was evident in one or two locations, which suggests the need for increased vigilance, for example, at the bus stop opposite Kilgarron Park near the No Dumping sign litter was evident. There is a need for litter bins here. Sprinklings of litter was also evident on the left hand side approaching the village from Kilgarron Park and was

also evident in the area between the toilets and the Statoil Station - new bins have also been put in place which is encouraging to see. Also, what steps have you for recycling?

TIDINESS

There is a very neat and tidy appearance throughout Enniskerry. The under-grounding of cables hasnt been completed yet and would make an improved impression under this category. Try to remove mounds of litter and debris which had been swept up as soon as possible.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

There are some fine examples of mature gardens with excellent presentation of residential areas and individual premises throughout the village. Because of this, there is a need for greater efforts in the residential parks themselves, for example, in Millfield Estate, there is a need for painting of the boundary wall. Graffiti was noted on the ESB box again this year. Try to put the bin, which is located at the back of the park in a better, more strategic location and try to initiate more regular clean up days, for example, once a month where all the residents make an effort. Try to take on one or two projects that you havent done before. A new development was noted on the Glenree Road. The new development at the entrance to Powerscourt is a magnificent development and will be nice once completed. The park near the Texaco garage, the right hand side entrance could be cut back somewhat. Try to prepare an environmental and recreational improvement plan for the open space here. Kilgarron Park was not too bad but long grass was noted at the nameplate, the lower section near the shop was better maintained.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The approach roads to Enniskerry were generally well presented. There was an excellent presentation from the Kiltarnan approach road, particularly, at the triangle, with new nameplate noted, and a lovely flower presentation. It was also good to see use of Irish. The Glenree approach road was also quite good, with good surfacing, it was litter free but some parts of the foot path did need resurfacing at time of adjudication. Approaching from the N11 - generally it was quite good but replace the 30 MPH sign; weeds were noted on the left hand side and were also evident along the base of the walls on the right hand side; verges need to be cut back more. On the road from Kiltarnan to the Bog Meadow, litter was evident by the pole. On the approach via Knocksink Nature Reserve, debris, i.e. leaves, could be swept and some weeds removed from base of walls. The Enniskerry sign on the Powerscourt approach needs to be replaced.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The general impression was very good. The adjudicators note the improvements that have been made to the Bog Meadow area and look forward to other improvements. It is important that you present your five year plan for both the adjudicators attention and for your own efforts. There is both business and private involvement in the presentation and improvement of the village -

congratulations to all involved. The adjudicators enjoyed their visit and look forward to further improvements in 1998.